

## SS. PETER & PAUL ORTHODOX CHURCH

605 Washington Avenue, Manville, New Jersey 08835

Voice: 908-685-1452 / E-Mail: [frjames@ssppoc.org](mailto:frjames@ssppoc.org)

Website: [www.ssppoc.org](http://www.ssppoc.org) / Face Book: Friends of Ss. Peter & Paul Orthodox Church

Diocese Of New York & New Jersey: [www.nynjoca.org](http://www.nynjoca.org)

### BULLETIN OF FEBRUARY 02, 2020

#### BLESSING OF HOMES SEASON: JANUARY 7 THRU FEBRUARY 23 BY APPOINTMENT

##### SUNDAY/FEBRUARY 2

Meeting of our Lord in the Temple  
(One of "the 12 Great Feasts" of the Year)  
9:10a.m. Hours; 9:30a.m. Divine Liturgy with  
Blessing of Candles; Coffee Hour  
"Souper Bowl Caring" Food Bank

##### MONDAY/FEBRUARY 3

St. Nicholas of Japan (+1912)  
8:00a.m. Akathist to St. Nicholas

##### WEDNESDAY/FEBRUARY 5

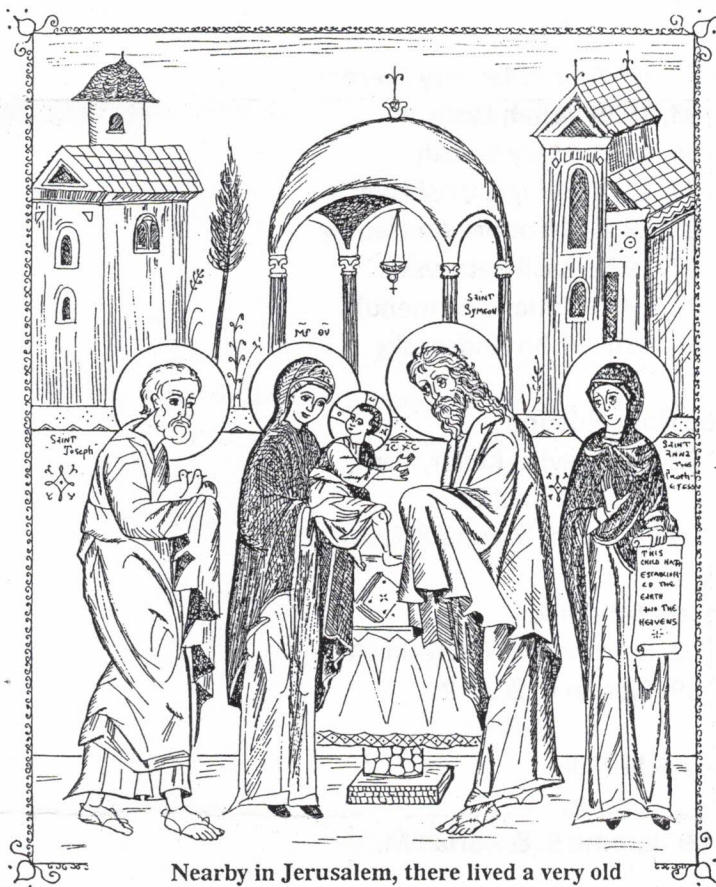
7:00p.m. Compline & Akathist to  
St. Photios of Constantinople (+891)

##### SATURDAY/FEBRUARY 8

9:30a.m. Akathist to Our Lord; Confessions  
5:30p.m. Vigil; Confessions

##### SUNDAY/FEBRUARY 9

Publican & Pharisee Sunday  
Beginning of Lenten Triodion  
Leave-Taking of the Meeting of Our Lord  
9:10a.m. Hours; 9:30a.m. Divine liturgy  
Coffee Hour; Food Basket & Basket for  
"Great Expectations"  
12:00p.m. Annual Parish Meeting



Nearby in Jerusalem, there lived a very old man named Symeon. He had been told by the Holy Spirit that he would not die until he had seen the Lord's Christ. Since it was the custom in the law of Moses to present every first-born male child in the temple after 40 days, Joseph and Mary brought the infant Jesus to the temple.

When Symeon saw them, he took Jesus in his arms, recognizing this child as the Christ. Symeon said: "Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word: For mine eyes have seen thy salvation."

## Offerings Week of February 2

Relic Candle: in memory of Ivanna; for the health of Alexia; in memory of Michael, Justina, Rosalie, Anastasia, Melania, Paul and Ivanna; for the health of Alexia.

Olive Oil: in memory of Vaschen Emilia, Virginia and Eugenia.

Wine: for the health and salvation of Nicholas (names day); in honor of St. Nicholas of Japan.

Flowers: in honor of the Meeting of the Lord in the Temple.

## Parish Synodicon: Memory Eternal!

Feb. 03, 1929 Jonah Lasin

Feb. 04, 1973 Mary Bolash

Feb. 04, 1975 Pelagia Grishkivech

Feb. 05, 1958 Theodore Andreosky

Feb. 07, 1931 Basil Petrovsky

Feb. 07, 1970 Tatiana Gumenuk

Feb. 08, 1963 John Andreosky

## Coffee Hour Hosting

Feb. 02 Kita, Nevitt, Keller, Turri,  
Torrissi & Kachek

Feb. 09 Inga, Eka, Marina & Nona

## Counters Schedule

Feb. 02 Katrina G. & Ekaterina M.

Feb. 09 Ciprian C. & Jill P.

## Ushers Schedule

Feb. 02 Peter B.

Feb. 09 Jerome S. & Adrian M.

## Readers Schedule

Feb. 02 John Z./ Feb. 09 Austin K.

## Names Day Greetings

St. Nicholas of Japan/Feb. 3: Nicholas Torrissi

Many Blessed Years!

## Annual Parish Meeting

Sunday, February 9<sup>th</sup> at 12:00p.m. (1 hour duration).

All parishioners are encouraged to attend. Please ahead your Reports and bring them next Sunday.

## 2020 Parish Master Calendar

Our parish website has a complete calendar (subject to change) for the entire year. Please make reference to it when scheduling your own calendar.

## Blessing of Homes: Jan. 7 thru Feb. 23

Homes are presently being blessed. To schedule your home blessing, contact Father James.

## Holy Water

Is available throughout the year. A vessel is kept on the vestibule stand and a large container in the coat room. You may refill from either of these sources.

## The New Orthodox Prayer Book (St. Tikhon's Press)

Have you checked it out, with its unique prayers? On sale at vestibule stand for \$20.

## "Souper Bowl of Caring – sponsored by International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC) Feb. 2 & Feb. 9 [www.iocc.org](http://www.iocc.org)

Part 1 - Local Food Panty (Manville)

Part 2 – Local Charity (Somerset) The Center for Great Expectations – shelter for abused and unmarried pregnant mothers to be. [www.cge-nj.org](http://www.cge-nj.org)

On Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup> and Feb. 9<sup>th</sup> we will have baskets for staple Food Items in the church vestibule and a basket for donations to Great Expectations (checks may be made out to Ss. Peter & Paul or Great Expectations). Join us in this charitable endeavor.

## Fast Free Week – Wed. & Fri. Feb, 12 & 14

We are free to eat meat, dairy and fish on these days. Enjoy!

## Perogei Making – Feb. 13<sup>th</sup>

In Parish Hall. Please join us.

## Candidates for Parish Council

There are openings on the Parish Council. If you are interested, please speak with Fr. James or Peter Bakaletz.

## At The End of Liturgy As You Kiss the Cross

Refrain from talking, as Post-Communion Prayers are being read. Converse for hours in in the Parish Hall.

## THE MEETING OF THE LORD IN THE TEMPLE

*Celebrated February 2<sup>nd</sup> – From the Prologue of Ochrid*

The fortieth day after His birth, the All-Holy Virgin brought her Divine Son into the Temple of Jerusalem, in accordance with the Law, to dedicate Him to God and to purify herself. "Consecrate to me every first-born that opens the womb among the Israelites both of man and beast, for it belongs to me" (Exodus 13:2). "Tell the Israelites: when a woman has conceived and gives birth to a boy, she shall be unclean for seven days, with the same uncleanness as at her menstrual period. On the eighth day, the flesh of the boy's foreskin shall be circumcised, and then she shall spend thirty-three days more in becoming purified of her blood; she shall not touch anything sacred nor enter the sanctuary till the days of her purification are fulfilled. If she gives birth to a girl, for fourteen days she shall be as unclean as at her menstruation, after which she shall spend sixty-six days in becoming purified of her blood. When the days of her purification for a son or for a daughter are fulfilled, she shall bring to the priest at the entrance of the meeting tent a yearling lamb for a holocaust and a pigeon or a turtledove for a sin offering. The priest shall offer them up before the Lord to make atonement for her, and thus she will be clean again after her flow of blood. Such is the law for the woman who gives birth to a boy or a girl child" (Leviticus 12:2-7). Even though neither the one nor the other was necessary, nevertheless the Lawgiver did not, in anyway, want to transgress His own Law whom He had given through Moses, His servant and prophet. At that time, the high-priest Zaccharias, the father of John the Forerunner [Precursor], was on duty in the Temple["serving as a priest before God in the order of his division" St. Luke 1:8]. Zaccharias placed the Virgin, not in the temple area reserved for women but rather in the area reserved for virgins. On this occasion, two unusual persons appeared in the Temple: the Elder Simeon and Anna, the daughter of Phanuel. The righteous Simeon took the Messiah in his arms and said: " Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word: For mine eyes have seen thy salvation, which thou hast prepared before the face of all people; a light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel." (St. Luke 2: 29-32). Simeon also spoke the following words about the Christ-child: "Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel" (St. Luke 2:34). Then Anna, who from her youth served God in the Temple by fasting and prayers, recognized the Messiah and glorified God and proclaimed to the inhabitants of Jerusalem about the coming of the long-awaited One.



### **Troparion – tone 1**

Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos full of grace! From you shone the Sun of Righteousness, Christ our God, Enlightening those who sat in darkness! Rejoice and be glad O righteous elder, you accepted in your arms the Redeemer of our souls, Who grants us the resurrection!

### **Kontakion – tone 1**

By Thy Nativity Thou didst sanctify the Virgin's womb, and didst bless Simeon's hands, O Christ God. Now Thou hast come and save us through love, grant peace to all Orthodox Christians, O only Lover of men!

The Pharisees present in the Temple, who having seen and heard all, became angry with Zacharias because he placed the Virgin Mary in the area reserved for virgins and reported this to King Herod. Convinced that this is the new king about whom the Magi from the east spoke, Herod immediately sent his soldiers to kill Jesus. In the meantime the Holy Family had already left the city and set out for Egypt under the guidance of an angel of God. The Feast of the Meeting of our Lord in the Temple was celebrated from earliest times but the solemn celebration of this day was established in 544 AD during the reign of Emperor Justinian.

### **Concerning the Virgin Birth**

According to the Law, "Every male child that opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord." Only with Christ did this literally occur. He Himself opened the womb of the Virgin at birth, while all other wombs which have born a child have first been opened by a man.



- Blessed Theophylact

## SUNDAY OF ZACCHAEUS

From OCA.org

The paschal season of the Church is preceded by the season of Great Lent, which is also preceded by its own liturgical preparation. The first sign of the approach of Great Lent comes five Sundays before its beginning. On this Sunday the Gospel reading is about Zacchaeus the tax-collector. It tells how Christ brought salvation to the sinful man, and how his life was changed simply because he "sought to see who Jesus was" (Luke 19:3). The desire and effort to see Jesus begins the entire movement through Lent towards Pascha. It is the first movement of salvation.

Our lenten journey begins with recognition of our own sinfulness, just as Zacchaeus recognized his. He promised to make restitution by giving half of his wealth to the poor, and by paying to those he had falsely accused four times as much as they had lost. In this, he went beyond the requirements of the Law (Ex. 22:3-12).

The example of Zacchaeus teaches us that we should turn away from our sins, and atone for them. The real proof of our sorrow and repentance is not just a verbal apology, but when we correct ourselves and try to make amends for the consequences of our evil actions. We are also assured of God's mercy and compassion by Christ's words to Zacchaeus, "Today salvation is come to this house" (Luke 19:9). After the Great Doxology at Sunday Matins (when the week tone is 1, 3, 5, 7) we sing the Dismissal Hymn of the Resurrection "Today salvation has come to the world," which echoes the Lord's words to Zacchaeus.

Zacchaeus was short, so he climbed a tree in order to see the Lord. All of us have sinned and come short of the glory of God (Rom. 3:23). We are also short in our spiritual stature, therefore we must climb the ladder of the virtues. In other words, we must prepare for spiritual effort and growth.



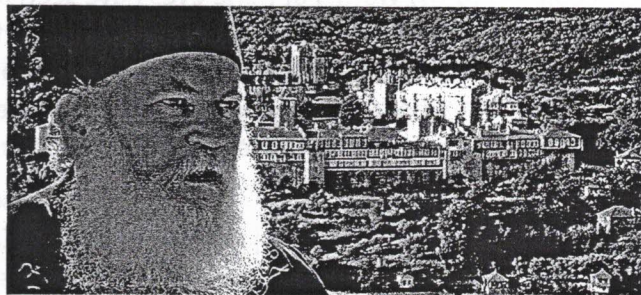
## CONTEMPORARY MAN AND THE SPIRITUAL LIFE

*Elder Ephraim, Abbot of Vatopaidi Monastery*

We who live in the contemporary world prefer to justify everything and live as we see fit. We do not live the true spiritual life, and we do not like to follow the teachings of the Church.

If we keep the commandments of God, the Grace of the Holy Spirit will come into our hearts. Only then will our lives have meaning, because then the soul tastes God.

Though we are in the Church, we do not like to follow the rules of the Church. It is a fashion among youth. This cannot be however. Freedom is not going where you want to go or doing what you want to do. Freedom is to be free from the passions. One is free who knows Christ. Anyone who wants to be in the Church keeps the commandments. If you keep the commandments you receive Divine Grace.



The Apostle Luke painted seventy icons. One of them called the Portaitissa, of the Mother of God, was said to have been seen and blessed by Her. Once during the persecutions of the icons, a pious woman wrapped this one in a clean sheet and placed it in the ocean, praying that it would float to a safe place. It arrived at the shores of Mt. Athos, upright, with a fiery light reaching to heaven that shone on it. Monks in a canoe were unable to reach it. It was revealed to a holy hermit, Gabriel, to retrieve it and he walked out to it on top of the water as if it were dry land.

Early in the ministry of Papa-Nicholas Planas he was the priest of St. Panteleimon, a thirteen-family parish in Athens. However, another priest conspired with the church wardens and had Papa-Nicholas fired. So he went to the eight-family parish of St. John. One night on the way home he was crying because the firing had caused him spiritual sorrow. Suddenly a fine young man appeared and consoled him. He said that he was Panteleimon and then he immediately disappeared.